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GARLANDS FROM THE EAST

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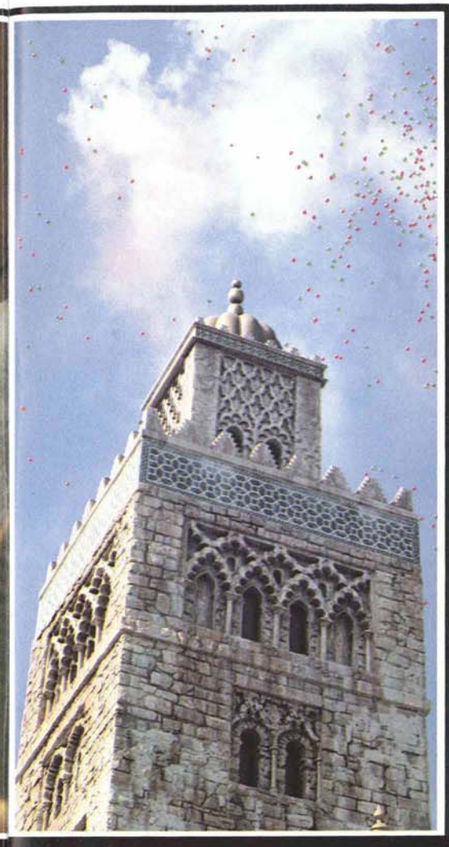
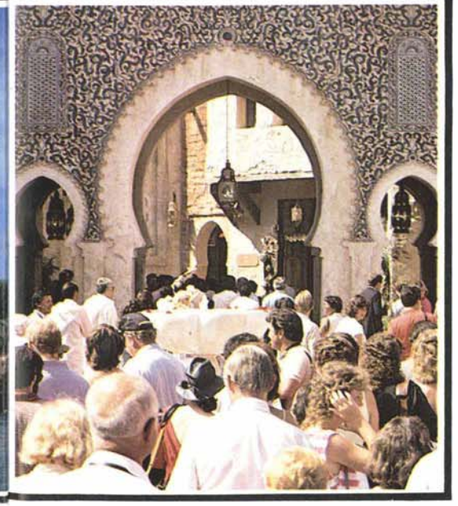
Cover: Though flowers are thought to be rare in the "Saharo-Sindian" floristic regions – deserts extending from North Africa through the Arabian Peninsula and Pakistan – some areas bloom with color in the spring, and many of the region's species have been exported to Europe. Turkey, of course, sent the first tulip to Europe, as this painting by flower specialist Kathleen Crawford suggests. Back Cover: an engraved slab, or stele, that once decorated Carthage, the city-state that once ruled the Mediterranean.

◀ At high noon, at a depth of 18 meters (60 feet), the delicate texture of Red Sea coral, off Saudi Arabia, is silhouetted sharply against the sun.



MOROCCO IN FLORIDA

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY LARRY LUXNER



Amid the strong smell of incense floating through narrow alleys and courtyards, white-turbaned Berbers sit cross-legged on the floor, pounding out North African rhythms on leather-hide drums while costumed women chant traditional Moroccan folksongs. Nearby, in the arched passageways of a bazaar, vendors sell brassware from Meknes, jewelry from Fez and handwoven carpets from Casablanca, and, across the way, a lavishly decorated restaurant, "The Marrakesh," offers exotic North African cuisine prepared by the finest chefs of Morocco.

It's *not* real, but the atmosphere of this walled "city" seems so authentically Moroccan that an unknowing visitor might actually think he was in 11th-century Marrakesh. In fact the visitor is closer to Miami than to Marrakesh; the surrounding minarets, medinas and marketplaces are all part of Walt Disney World's newest addition to what is called Experimental Prototype City of Tomorrow (EPCOT): the Moroccan Pavilion.

Last September, with drums rolling and hundreds of balloons bubbling into the sky, the Arab World opened its first permanent presence at Walt Disney World, one of America's most popular tourist attractions. Muhammad Belmahi, Morocco's Minister of Tourism, attending the ceremony at the Disney World complex near Orlando, Florida, said, "Our dream was to bring a part of Morocco to America. Today that dream is fulfilled."

Mr. Belmahi and Moroccan embassy counselor Ahmed Bourzaim were on hand to cut the ribbon to the $20 million pavilion, which is also the first to be added since the original opening of the EPCOT World Showcase in 1982. Other countries with permanent exhibits are Canada, China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Mexico and the United States.

Joumala Lamrani, a 24-year-old Moroccan woman who worked in the pavilion as part of a one-year, government-sponsored visit to Florida, said the exhibit will give Americans a chance to see what Morocco is really like. For example, says Miss Lamrani, many Americans, before visiting the pavilion, were not even aware that Morocco is a Muslim nation.

This Islamic heritage is very much in evidence at the huge pavilion. Decorative artwork, for example, includes typical geometric forms, painstakingly hand-painted on thousands of small colorful tiles. And in order to duplicate the exact art forms used in Moroccan mosques, Disney executives brought over 19 Moroccan artists who worked on the pavilion for five months.

During the first month of its opening, visitors were entertained by 80 Moroccan singers, dancers and acrobats sent to Florida by their government. Their colorful costumes represented the varied cultures of Morocco's 21 million inhabitants – from nomadic Berbers of the Sahara to French-influenced inhabitants of Casablanca.

Among the main attractions at the pavilion are an art gallery displaying Moroccan ceramics and a replica of the ornate Nejjarine fountain in the medieval medina at Fez. The pavilion's entrance is guarded by a replica of the tiled Bab Boujouloud gate, a main entrance to old Fez. And, towering over the entire pavilion, there is an actual-size reproduction of the famed Koutoubia Minaret in Marrakesh.

The EPCOT showcase sent two emissaries to Morocco to hunt down bargains on leather goods, ceramics, brassware, carpets and jewelry to furnish the pavilion's seven shops with genuine Moroccan handicrafts. The pair, who often bought out the entire stock of roadside stands, returned to Florida with more than two tons of goods – making the pavilion one of America's largest importers of Moroccan handicrafts.

Some of those exotic furnishings can be seen at the "The Marrakesh," a lavish, 250-seat restaurant serving fine North African cuisine. Among its specialties are *cous-cous*, steaming semolina topped with lamb or chicken and vegetables, and *bastilla*, a sweet-and-spicy pigeon-meat pastry. Like the rest of the pavilion, the restaurant is wholly authentic; the restaurant's owners, Rashid Choufani and Rashid Lyazidi, have operated some of the finest restaurants in Morocco, including the five-star Hotel Europa in Agadir, and the famed Palais Jamai Hotel in Fez.

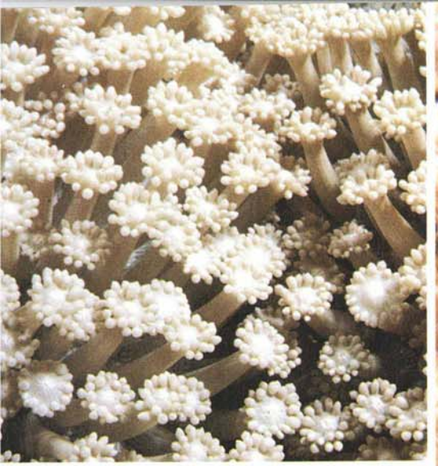
Mr. Belmahi said he hopes Americans who tour the pavilion will one day visit the real Morocco too. But for at least one temporary Moroccan resident in Florida the Moroccan pavilion serves another purpose. Says Amina Habib-eddine: "I come here when I feel homesick."

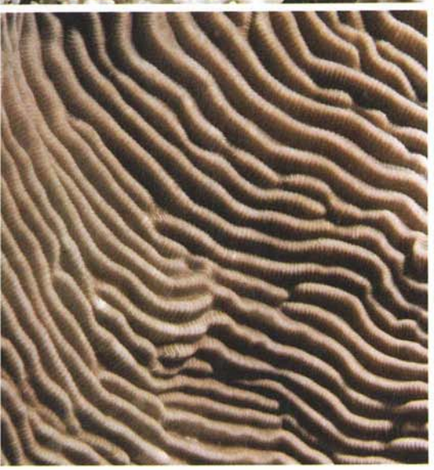
Larry Luxner, a staff reporter with the Leesburg Commercial, *free-lanced for one year from the Middle East.*

The famed beauty of the encrusted corals is still untouched...

THE COLOR OF CORAL

PHOTOGRAPHED BY SCOTT MOODY





Red Sea coral takes on innumerable shapes and textures: from flowers to cactus to lava. Here are some examples: Poritidae *(above, at top); Encrusting coral; (above, middle);* Milleporidae *(below),* Subergorgiidae *(right, center) and* Fungiidae *(far right).*

THE COLOR OF CORAL

For Saudi Arabia, the Red Sea has always been important – as the main port of entry for pilgrims to Makkah (Mecca), and as an important commercial route via Jiddah and Suez. And in recent years the sea has become even more important. Nearly three years ago a tanker loaded crude oil at Yanbu' for the first time (See *Aramco World*, November-December 1982). And just before that officials announced a joint Saudi Arab-Sudanese effort to extract gold, silver, copper and zinc from the mud on the Red Sea floor (See *Aramco World*, September-October 1982).

To many, however, the fame of the Red Sea derives from the incomparable beauty of its teeming and unique marine life – 20 percent of its species exist nowhere else – and the rich colors, shapes and textures of its coral reefs.

In recent years, the timeless beauty of the coral has itself attracted attention (See *Aramco World*, September-October 1980); because they are aware of how vulnerable the coral is, officials in the Red Sea countries have begun to take steps to protect and preserve both the coral and the rich species of marine life that make up this extraordinary ecosystem.

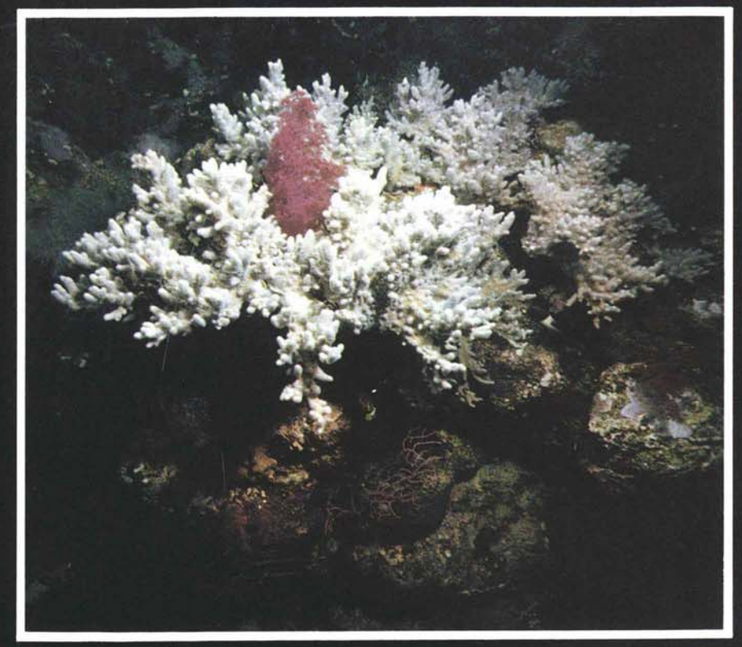
In a sense, this move was ahead of its time. Despite increased tanker traffic to and from the new oil port of Yanbu' and through the busy Suez Canal, the Red Sea is still a relatively remote area; indeed, some areas in the Red Sea are surprisingly untouched by progress.

Nevertheless, threats have increased slightly in the last few years. Industrialization, spreading outwards from the sprawling complex at Yanbu', can always pose a threat and so can tanker traffic, no matter how strict the precautions against pollution. Even the silent beauty of the reefs can pose a problem – by attracting so many divers that the quiet balance of light and sand is upset.

To see what was happening, therefore, Scott Moody, a young aficionado of both the Arabian Gulf and the Red Sea and an underwater photographer with three years' experience in Gulf waters, took a week last summer to explore the reefs off Yanbu' and see what the conditions are like. His report: "I'm very impressed."

"Conditions in the Red Sea," Moody went on, "are far better than in the Gulf." Moody's view, limited to between 20 and 30 miles of coastline near Yanbu', is not a totally valid survey, of course; there are thousands of miles of coral in the Red Sea. But it is a recent inspection by someone who has seen a lot of underwater life: Moody has been exploring the Gulf for six years. And what it suggests – and what these photographs show – is that the famed beauty of the corals is still relatively unspoiled.

Above: In this brilliantly colored photograph of a wreck the beauty of coral in many forms can be clearly seen. At left: the coral called Banded dascyllus *with its eerie, skeletal look and, at right, Sponge coral, resembling, here, a nest of water pipes and (far right) the ethereal* Nephtheidae.



Seen from below the coral reef resembles the roof of a great cavern with sunlight slanting through from above. Inset: another example of the lovely Nephtheidae*, this one a spray of white with a bouquet in off-shade magenta in the middle, another example of the rich colors of Red Sea coral.*

A STORY ON STAMPS

SUEZ REOPENED

WRITTEN BY ROBERT OBOJSKI
(STAMPS FROM THE AUTHOR'S COLLECTION)
PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF
BBC HULTON PICTURE LIBRARY/IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

Among the pharaohs who took an interest in a canal from the Nile to the Red Sea, Ramses II was one of the most famous. He felt a canal was important to both the commercial and military power of Egypt and used it not only for ship traffic, but also to carry fresh water from the Nile to Lake Timsah. Ramses is depicted on numerous stamps of Egypt – including a series of 1957-60 regular mail issues. On this stamp we see his idealized portrait.

Exactly 10 years ago – on June 5, 1975 – Egypt reopened the Suez Canal after seven years of stagnation and one year of hard, dangerous work clearing out the debris of two wars and endless artillery duels: sunken ships, live shells, boats and trucks loaded with ammunition and countless mines strewn along the canal's sloping banks.

To mark the occasion – and show that one of the world's more famous waterways was again open – the late President Anwar Sadat and some 600 dignitaries boarded a seven-ship flotilla and steamed south from Port Said amid a deafening din of horns, whistles and music (See *Aramco World*, September-October 1975.)

For Egypt, those ceremonies, however dramatic, were but one more chapter in a series of attempts to open or reopen some sort of canal in the region. The first attempt, apparently, was in the 20th century B.C. when the ancient Egyptians, under the Pharaoh Sesostris I, dug a west-east canal from the Nile Delta to a point on the Red Sea near the present port of Suez. That canal, probably the first, silted up, despite sporadic re-excavation projects, but successive pharaohs continued to open and reopen the canal in the ensuing millennia. One was Ramses II, who reigned from about 1304 B.C. to 1237 B.C., and another was Necho II , who was in power about 600 B.C. Necho's attempts to reopen a canal were carried on a century later by the Persian ruler Darius the Great and completed by Ptolemy II, one of the Greek line of rulers, about 250 B.C.

In the following centuries, the Ptolemaic canal was modified, closed and reopened several times. In the eighth century, however, it was put out of commission entirely by Caliph Abu Ja'far Abdullah al-Mansur and remained so for more than 1,000 years.

In modern times, Napoleon Bonaparte was the first to try and dig a canal. More ambitious than the pharaohs, he wanted his canal to link the Mediterranean with the Red Sea and so assigned his engineers to make a survey and see if such a canal were feasible. The engineer, J.M. Le Pere, surveyed the Isthmus of Suez and somehow concluded that the waters of the Red Sea were at least 9.8 meters (32 feet) higher than those of the Mediterranean. Since that meant the Red Sea would drain into the Mediterranean if a canal were dug without locks, Napoleon abandoned the idea.

In the next 50 years, various engineers and promoters came up with schemes to build a canal, but it was Ferdinand de Lesseps, a French diplomat, engineer and promoter,who eventually persuaded Sa'id Pasha, the khedive of Egypt,to back him, went on to get the support of France and formed the company that eventually built the canal.

Work on the canal began in 1859 and was completed in 1869. From the northern entrance at Port Said on the Mediterranean to the terminus on the Gulf of Suez, the canal measures 169 kilometers (105 miles), including six kilometers (four miles) of approach channels in the harbors. It cost well over $100 million – several billions in today's dollars – and its opening was one of the most extraordinary extravaganzas ever seen. The khedive invited all the kings, queens, and emperors of Europe, plus 1,000 notables – such as authors Zola, Dumas and Ibsen. He built a new road to the Pyramids. He commissioned Verdi to write an opera – and built a new opera house to present it. He imported chefs from all over Europe to prepare a banquet served to 1,000 guests on tables in the desert under the stars. (See *Aramco World*, September-October 1969).

De Lesseps, unfortunately, did not stop with Suez. In 1879, he attempted to build another great waterway: the Panama Canal. But this was a quite different challenge and he not only failed to complete the canal, but was involved in a serious financial scandal that ruined his reputation.

Since the Suez Canal reduced sea distances between Western Europe and India substantially – by about 8,000 kilometers (5,000 miles) – it immediately became one of the most important waterways in the world, both economically and militarily. And for Great Britain, as a result, it posed a serious problem: in the hands of an enemy the canal could bar speedy access to its colonies and outposts in Africa and Asia, especially India, the jewel in the crown. British statesmen, therefore, were relieved when the Khedive Ismail Pasha, beset with financial troubles, sold his shares in the canal to the British government in 1875, clearing the way for British control of both the waterway and Egypt and, eventually, for an increased presence throughout the Middle East.

This importance was underlined in 1888 when the major powers of the world signed the Constantinople Convention guaranteeing passage through the waterway to all nations – even in wartime.

In 1956, Egypt's President Nasser nationalized the canal – triggering an attack by French, British and Israeli troops and a bombing raid that left 50 sunken ships in the canal and closed it to traffic. By March of the following year, the canal had been reopened but subsequent rounds in the Arab-Israeli conflict – in 1967 and in 1973 – closed it for the next eight years.

Because of its importance in Egyptian history, the story of the Suez Canal is a natural theme for postage stamps and Egypt has missed no chance to tell the story on stamps and covers. As a result, philatelists around the world have been able to add a large number of attractive and valuable stamps to their collections. ⊕

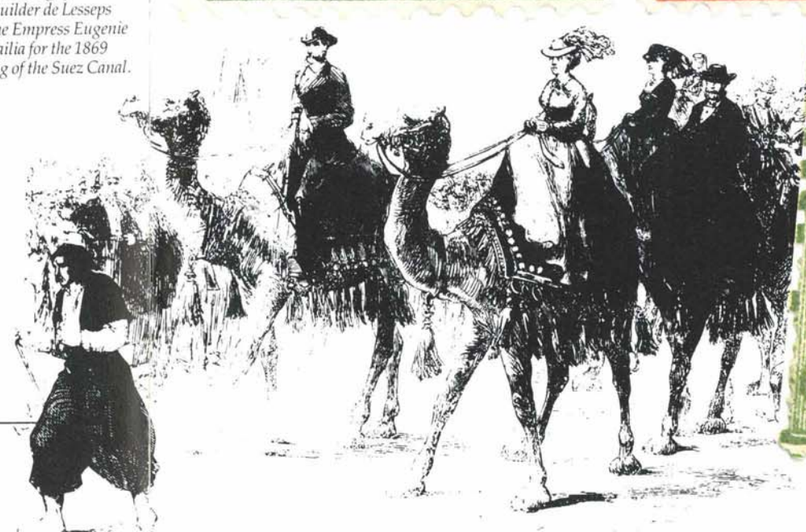
Robert Obojski writes a column for Linn's Weekly Stamp News *and is a contributing editor to* Acquire *magazine.*

One of the earliest known photographs of the completed Suez Canal, this picture shows a French frigate negotiating the waterway shortly after its official opening in 1869.

After a canal built about 250 B.C. was destroyed in the eighth century, more than a millennium passed before Napoleon Bonaparte tried to dig a canal to join the Mediterranean and Red seas. But when his engineers concluded, erroneously, that the waters of the Red Sea were at least 9.8 meters higher than those of the Mediterranean (32 feet) – and thus would drain through the canal, Napoleon abandoned the project. On this strip we see the 1- and 2-riyals from a 1970 Ras al-Khaimah set depicting Napoleon.

Ten years after completion of the Suez canal, de Lesseps was picked to direct Panama Canal construction, but encountered serious difficulties and the canal company had to be dissolved and de Lesseps had to admit failure. In 1955, nevertheless, the Republic of Panama marked the 150th anniversary of de Lesseps' birth by issuing a 3 centavos stamp bearing the portrait of the canal builder.

A line drawing of canal builder de Lesseps with the Empress Eugenie in Ismailia for the 1869 opening of the Suez Canal.

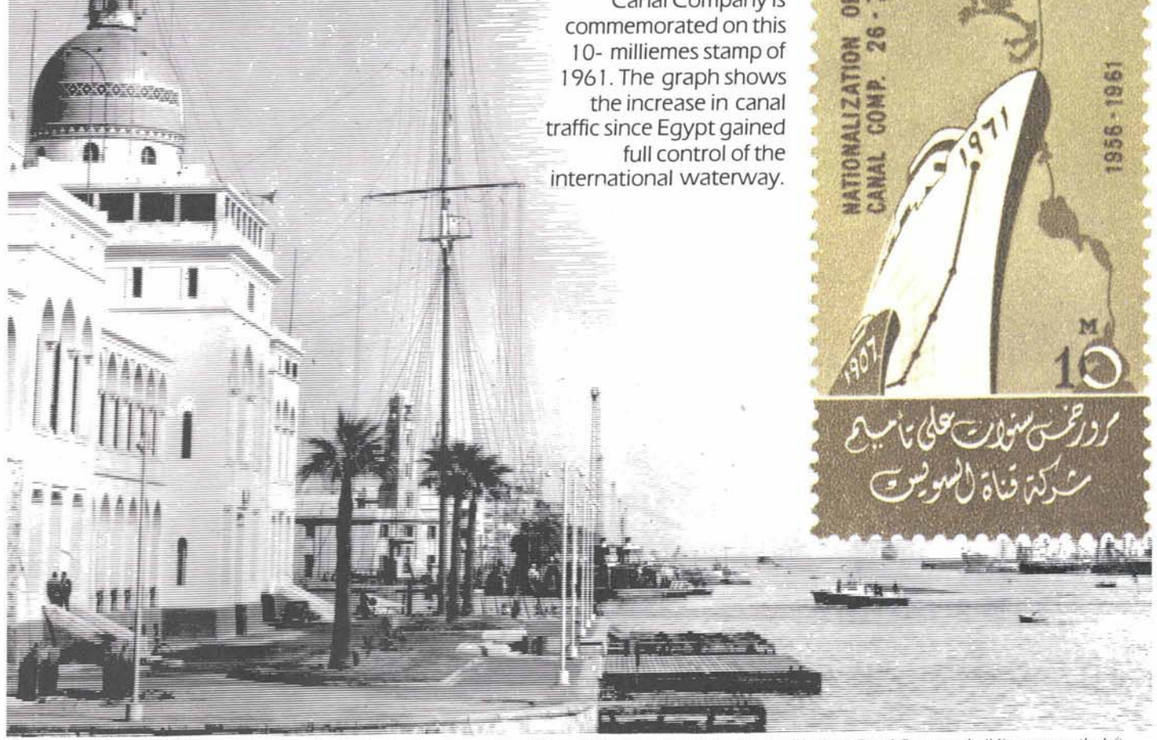


If collectors of Suez stamps are interested in Port Said French issues, there are more than 100 major varieties to choose from. They were produced between 1899-1930, and the designs are typical of French colonial stamps of the period, though, in fact, France did not fully control Port Said politically but merely maintained post offices and other government administrative outposts in the city. Port Said was founded in 1859, the year in which the construction of the canal began. These stamps are: The 1-centime issue from 1899-1900, one of the early Port Said French issues; 4- and 5-centime values, issued in 1902-03; 10-centimes stamp issued in 1902 under the French administration. Another early stamp is a 5-centimes ship vignette issued in 1868 .

In July 1956, Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser seized the Suez Canal and British and French forces bombed Port Said, closing the canal to traffic. Later, the British and French withdrew from Egypt, a United Nations salvage fleet began to clear the waterway and by mid-March, the canal was again open. To record these historic events philatelically Egypt has issued any number of stamps: a 10-milliemes value marking the nationalization of the canal, featuring a map of the canal and a large ship; a 1957 100-milliemes specimen commemorating the reopening with the same basic design of the 1956 issue except that its colors are blue and yellow-green; 10-milliemes stamp issued on October 19, 1954, to commemorate the agreement made by Egypt with Great Britain for the evacuation of the canal zone; a 10-milliemes stamp showing Suez Canal headquarters at Port Said, ships, and a map; this marks the 10th anniversary of nationalization.

This Egyptian 140-milliemes of June 5, 1980 commemorates the fifth anniversary of the reopening of the Suez Canal.

The fifth anniversary of the nationalization of the Suez Canal Company is commemorated on this 10- milliemes stamp of 1961. The graph shows the increase in canal traffic since Egypt gained full control of the international waterway.

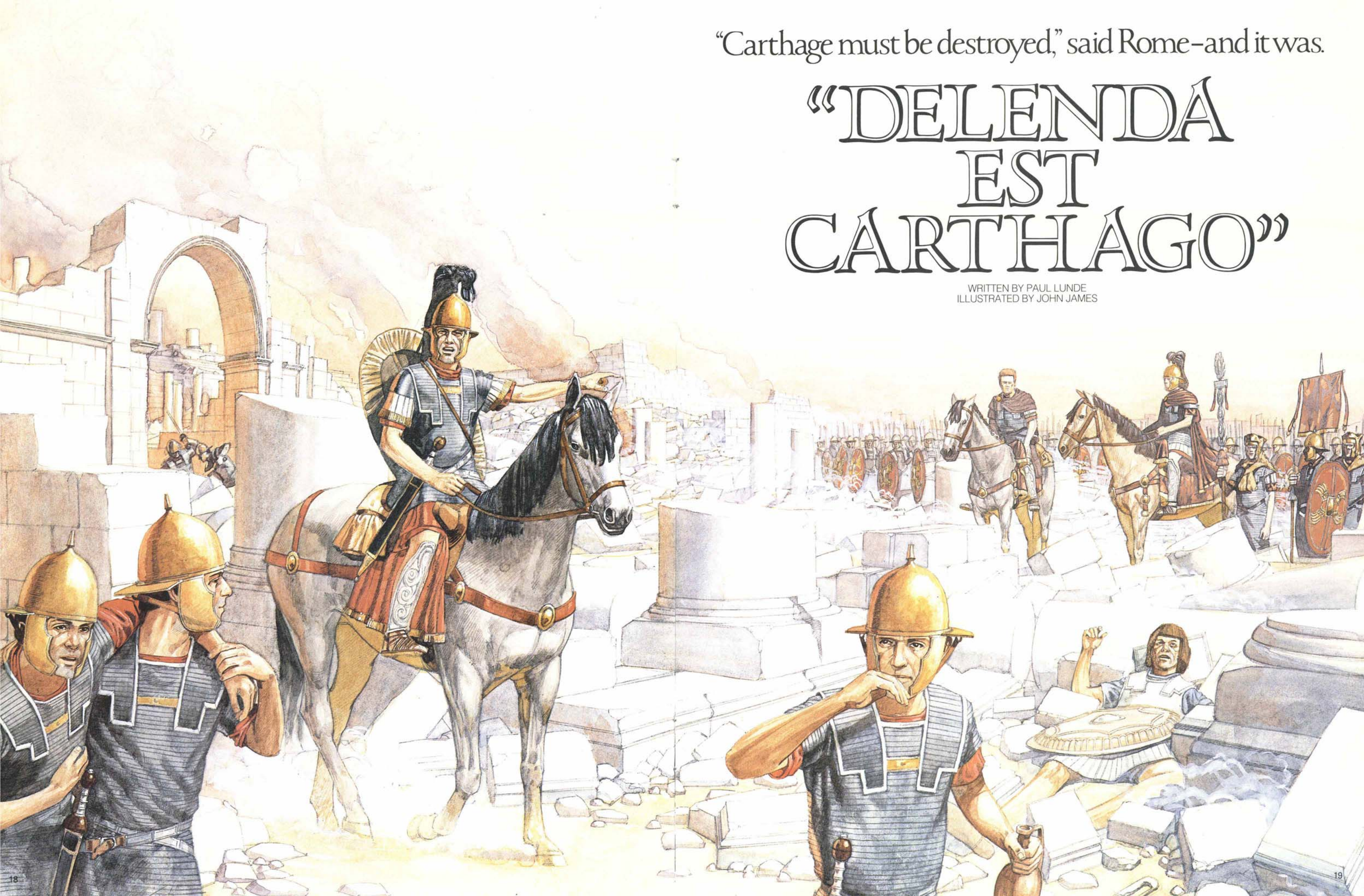


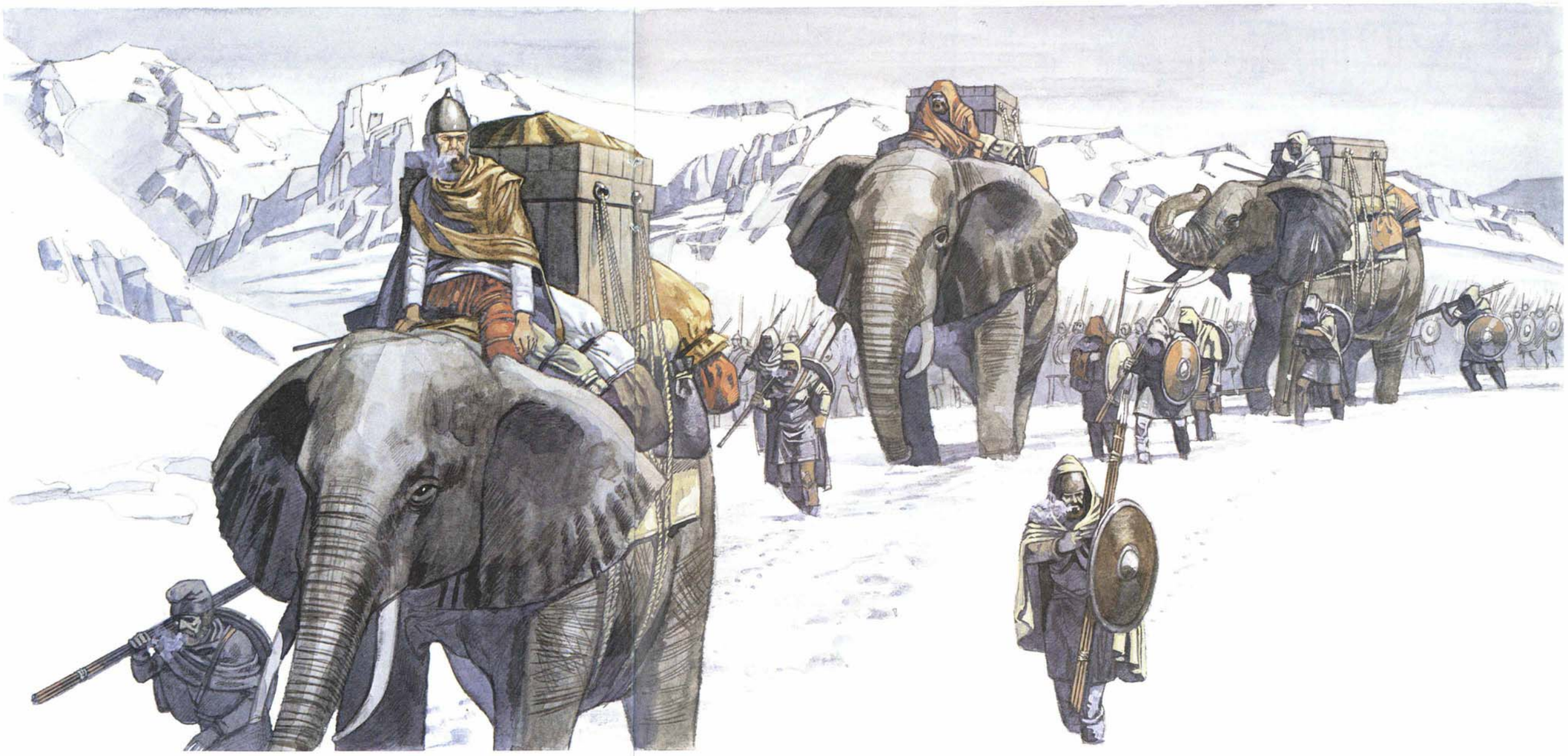
Salvage operations at Port Said in 1956-57, after the Anglo-French invasion of Egypt blocked the strategic waterway. The Suez Canal Company buildings are on the left.

"Carthage must be destroyed," said Rome–and it was.

"DELENDA EST CARTHAGO"

WRITTEN BY PAUL LUNDE
ILLUSTRATED BY JOHN JAMES





When Carthage and Rome finally signed a peace treaty - in February 1985 - Ugo Vetere, the mayor of Rome,seemed deeply moved by the still existing traces of the catastrophe at Carthage – which he described as "blackened by fire." 'The catastrophe, he said, "... should be regarded, not just with curiosity, or with a love for archeology, but... with the eyes of those who wish for and... work for peace today."

Carthage today, of course, *is* at peace. Now a quiet suburb of Tunis, it bears no resemblance to the magnificent city whose power once made Rome tremble. Indeed, the paucity of visible ruins is testimony to the savage fate that the Romans inflicted on their great enemy when Scipio, a Roman general, conquered Carthage after a siege that lasted two years – and literally leveled it.

The destruction of Carthage, until then the leading power in the western Mediterranean, was the last act in a story that had begun many centuries before in the city of Tyre on the coast of today's Lebanon. Founded in 2750 B.C. according to Herodotus , Tyre was the leading city of the Phoenicians, a Semitic-speaking people from northwest Arabia who settled the littoral of the eastern Mediterranean sometime in the third millennium B.C.

Their name – Phoenicians – was derived from the Greek word for "purple" and was adopted, presumably, because one of their principal exports was a valuable purple dye made from a species of shellfish. They called themselves "Canaanites," from the semitic root *kn'n*, which also means "purple."

In the early ninth century B.C., while a Phoenician king named Pygmalion ruled Tyre, his sister Elissa married her uncle Acherbas, one of the richest men in Tyre. Pygmalion, however, objecting to the marriage had Acherbas assassinated, and Elissa, with a band of citizens loyal to her husband, fled to Cyprus. After a brief stay in Cyprus, then under Phoenician control, Elissa and her followers set sail again and landed on the coast of North Africa, where the Phoenicians had founded other settlements; having penetrated the western Mediterranean very early, according to Pliny, the far-ranging Phoenician traders had founded the city of Utica, not far from what would become Carthage.

In Utica, Elissa and her group were welcomed by the citizens,from whom, legend says, Elissa purchased the site of Carthage by paying for a piece of land the size of a bull's hide – in Greek a *byrsa* – and then cutting the hide into very thin strips until she had one strip long enough to surround the hilltop upon which Carthage was later built. This legend, to which Virgil alludes in the *Aeneid* , obviously arose among Greeks puzzled by the Phoenician word *byrsa*, which means "acropolis," or "fortress." (Today, Byrsa is the name of the train stop near Carthage on the line that runs from Tunis to Sidi Bou Said.)

Next, according to legend, Hiarbas, the ruler of Utica, demanded Elissa's hand in marriage, threatening war if she refused. Since Carthage was not yet strong enough to resist, Elissa, loyal to the memory of her dead husband, built a sacrificial pyre at the gate of Carthage and threw herself into the fire. Her subjects elevated her to divine status, and her cult was maintained until the fall of Carthage, when the wife of the ruler, rather than submit to the Romans, repeated Elissa's desperate act. Thus the history of Carthage began and ended with a woman's suicide.

All this took place in 813 B.C. – 60 years before the founding of Rome by Romulus in 753 B.C., thus making Carthage not only the older city, but also the heir to a very ancient and sophisticated civilization – the civilization that helped develop, and then spread, the alphabet, one of man's greatest achievements.

It is hard for the modern mind, so used to thinking in decades, to conceive just how long ago that was. In 813 B.C. , when Carthage was founded, its parent city of Tyre had already existed for 1,937 years – almost as long as the time that separates us from the Carthaginians. It is, therefore, amusing that from the Phoenician point of view, Carthage was a "new town." But that is what *qart hadasht* – the origin of the Greek name "Carthage" – means.

Though Carthage was not a colony of Tyre, the two cities shared a common language, a common religion and long centuries of common history. These links, in fact, explain why the Romans called the settlers in Carthage and other cities in North Africa "Puni," and why their civilization and dialect were called "Punic." The word "Punic" is the Latin deformation of the Greek word *Phoinikes* – Phoenician.

Early in their history, the Carthaginians began to establish colonies along the Mediterranean coast and the Atlantic coast of North Africa. They sailed as far south as Cameroon in 425 B.C. – a feat not to be repeated until the great age of the Portuguese exploration 2,000 years later – and as far north as the Cornish coast of Britain where they traded luxury goods for tin. It was Carthage's expansion in the Mediterranean itself, however, that brought it into conflict – first with the Greeks and then with the Romans.

In 654 B.C., Carthaginians founded a colony at Ibiza, one of the Balearic Islands. About the same time they also established themselves in Sardinia and Sicily. Then, around 600 B.C., when the Greeks attempted to move into the western Mediterranean, Carthage allied itself with the Etruscans and in 535 B.C. their allied fleets defeated the Greeks off Corsica, closing the area between Corsica and Sardinia to Greek colonists.

This alliance was to have political implications beyond the western Mediterranean. As it was really part of Persian opposition to the rise of the Greeks it subsequently pitted Carthage against Rome; in a sense the Romans, who borrowed so much from the Greeks, also inherited their war against Carthage.

These wars had no particular racial or cultural basis; they were certainly not confrontations between "West and East," and still less conflicts between opposing political systems or religions – or even linguistic groups. The population of Carthage was very mixed, and although the language spoken was Semitic, the people, then as now, were of standard Mediterranean types. Even their religion was not dissimilar to Greek and Roman paganism, and politically there were similarities.

During the fourth century B.C., the political organization of Carthage consisted of two magistrates, who were elected by the people, a senate of 300 members and a council of 100, which put questions concerning the city to the senate and

Continued on page 24

THE CARTHAGE TREATY

WRITTEN BY JOHN LAWTON
PHOTOGRAPHED BY PAUL LUNDE AND MOHAMMED KAABI/TAP

This February, Rome and Carthage made peace – *after 2,248 years* – when the cities' mayors signed a treaty of "friendship and cooperation" officially ending the hostilities that began in 264 B.C. with the outbreak of the Punic Wars. It was a simple, symbolic ceremony which, the two mayors hope, will set an example to the rest of the troubled world.

"May…the example of Carthage and Rome further the cooperation between peoples, and the understanding between men," said Carthage Mayor Chedly Klibi, who is also head of the Arab League.

The destructive history of the two cities "shows the whole world the necessity for peace and cooperation," said Mayor Ugo Vetere of Rome, who likened the two ancient antagonists to the super-powers of today, and their siege machines and war elephants to modern nuclear weapons.

One guidebook to the "ruins of the ruins" of Carthage sees it the same way. In describing the destruction by the Romans in 146 B.C. as the "Hiroshima of antiquity," the book says that so the Punic state would never threaten Imperial Rome again, the legionaries slaughtered its inhabitants, demolished its capital and, the story goes, seeded its soil with salt.

It was precisely *because* of their ancient wars, said the mayor of Rome, that the signing of a peace treaty between the two cities is so significant. It is a "lesson in humility and wisdom," added the mayor of Carthage, "the last act, sealing symbolically our final reconciliation."

The treaty, committing the two cities to an "exchange of knowledge and the establishment of common information, cultural and artistic programs," is, in fact, part of a process of closer cooperation between Italy and Tunisia. Though in recent years there was a dispute over Italian fishing rights off the Tunisian coast, even that now appears close to solution with the formation of a joint fishing company.

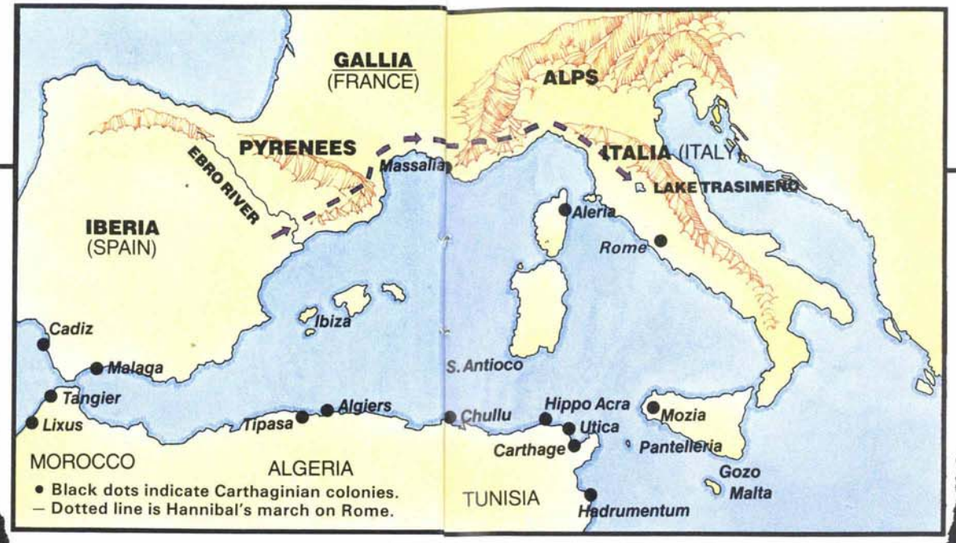
Ironically, it was a dispute over economic spheres of influence in the Mediterranean that led to the first of the three Punic Wars between Carthage and Rome. The second began in 218 B.C., when Hannibal marched his troops and elephants over the Pyrenees and the Alps to avenge the defeat of his father in the First Punic War, and very nearly captured Rome. It was this challenge that prompted Marcus Porcius Cato, better known as Cato the Elder, to demand in virtually every speech he made in the Roman Senate: "*Delenda est Carthago*" – Carthage must be destroyed. He eventually got his wish in the third and final of the Punic Wars, 149-146 B.C.

But this February – in a government building at the foot of the hill where the Carthaginians made their last stand, Mayor Vetere, heading a delegation from the *Senatus Populusque Romanus*, and Mayor Klibi, representing the now elegant suburb of Carthage, put all that behind them. It had taken 22 centuries, but, as the *Times* of London put it, "officialdom in Rome never moved fast."

The Italian newspaper *Stampa Sera* said the treaty deprived schoolbooks of a proverbial antagonist, like Greeks and Persians and cats and dogs, while *Il Messaggero* of Rome congratulated Mayor Vetere on not ending up nailed down in a wooden barrel like the legendary Roman hero Attilio Regolo, who tried to bring about an earlier peace in a vain mission to Carthage.

So enthusiastic, in fact, was press coverage of the signing ceremony, that photographers pressing forward to record the historic event upset a glass of water on the table in front of Mayor Vetere as he began his formal speech before some 150 invited guests, including Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali and a rather special resident of Carthage – Madame Bourguiba, the president's wife.

The mishap, however, provided Mayor Klibi with a perfect opportunity to prove the new friendship. As the water began to drip uncomfortably off the table into Mayor Vetere's lap, Klibi exchanged the soggy seat for his own.



Burghiba riceve Vetere a Tunisi

Roma-Cartagine Firmata la pace

TUNISI — Un atto simbolico, un messaggio di pace, ur promessa per l'avvenire: così viene interpretato da parte it liana e tunisina il patto di alleanza e di amicizia fra Roma Cartagine, concluso fra i sindaci delle due città Ugo Vetere Chedli Klibi. Il presidente tunisino ha definito «storico» l'av venimento. L'incontro tra Vetere e Burghiba è avvenuto ne palazzo presidenziale di Cartagine. La cerimonia della sigli del trattato, svoltasi in presenza delle massime autorità tu nisine, s'è svolta poco dopo nel Dar Maghrebià, un palazz non lontano dalla residenza del Combattente Supremo.

Le municipalità di Cartagine e di Roma — si legge nel t sto dell'accordo — «si rivolgono alle città del Mediterran perché possano estendersi la conoscenza, la cooperazione e ...che il Mediterraneo sia punto di incontro tra l'Eu

ROME AND CARTHAGE IN PEACE DEAL

CARTHAGE and Rome are planning to fill a historical gap by signing a peace treaty just 2,131 years after Roman legionaries stormed the north African city.

Mayors of the two cities will sign a symbolic friendship and collaboration pact in a ceremony at

Storming the citadel at Carthage, 146 B.C.

DIPLOMACY

Peace at Last

After 2,131 years, a treaty

So obsessed was Marcus Porcius Cato, better known as Cato the Elder, with tury B.C. enemy virtually all his Senate. "*Delenda* anded again and be destroyed." In Four Roman le killed four-fifths 00, and sold the legionaries sowed unic state that had ral Hannibal and bloodiest defeat

Carthage is a sub an capital, its ruins k a touch of glory fter the Roman as r Chedli Klibi and

Il protocollo d'intesa è stato siglato dai due sindaci

Finalmente firmata la pace Roma e Cartagine «alleate»

Il trattato sottoscritto prevede la realizzazione di programmi comuni nella ricerca storica, archeologica e per lo sviluppo del turismo

Un altro significativo momento di questa collabora-

AUJOURD'HUI CEREMONIE DE JUMELAGE ENTRE CARTHAGE

Perpétuer la paix entre Carthage et Rome

Par Mohamed MZALI

LE MAIRE I A « LA PR

Faire de la M un point de rer l'Europe, le M et l'Af

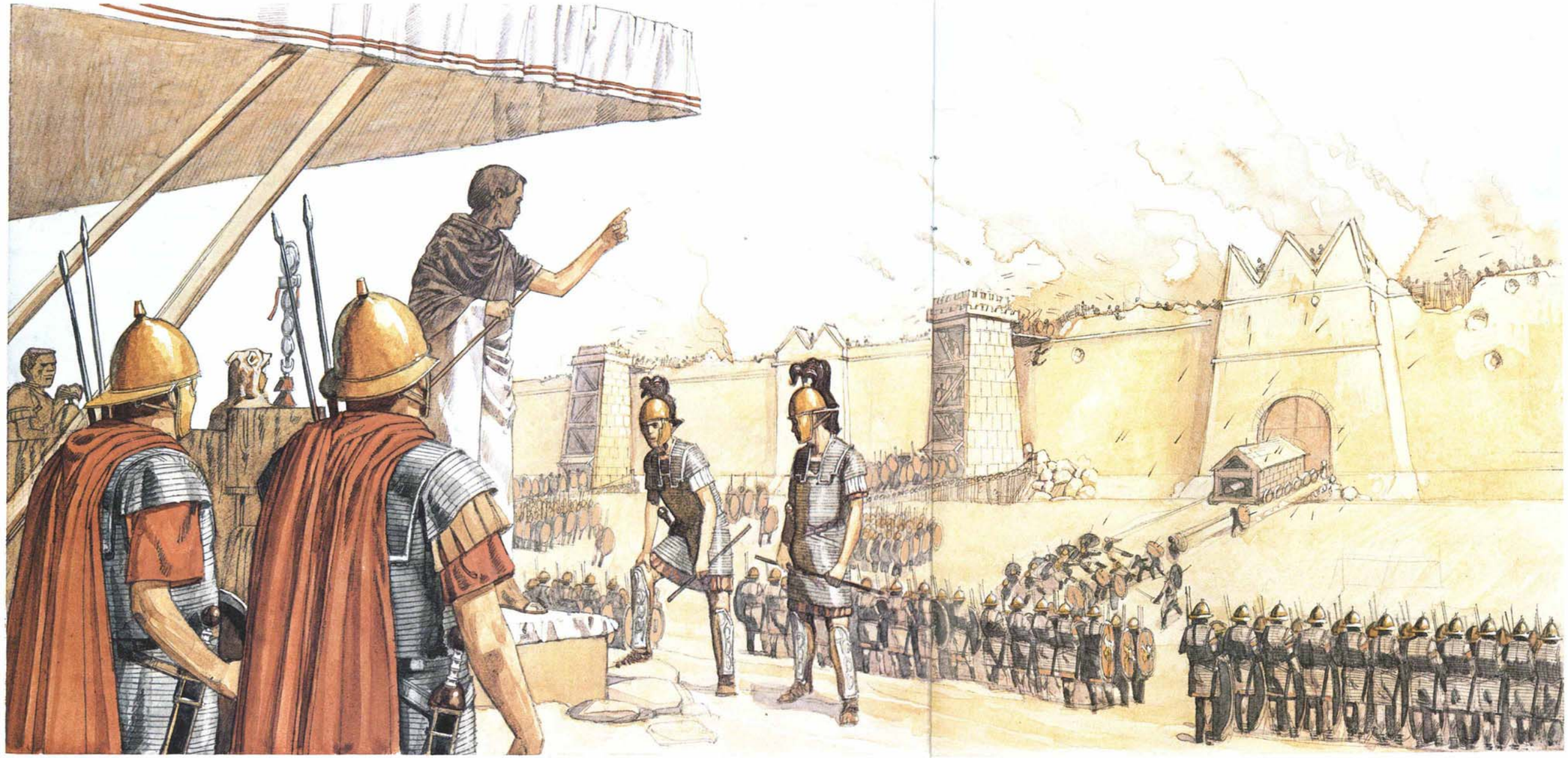
E ora tra Roma e Cartagine pace è fatta

La proposta era stata lanciata dal presidente tunisino Burghiba 10 anni fa ed è stata raccolta da Vetere

ROMA — Dopo più di venti secoli Roma e Cartagine fir-

dell'epoca. La proposta, però, cadde nel vuoto.

e Roma che avrà comunque un profondo significato —



served as a check on the rule of the magistrates. This system was much admired by Aristotle.

The conflict between the two powers was almost entirely economic: the rise of Rome, a new and belligerent power in what had been a Carthaginian lake, threatened Carthage's network of colonies and shipping lines. From the Carthaginian point of view, the Romans were upstarts – barbarians intent on destroying the delicate balance of power they had worked so hard to establish.

The two powers, nonetheless, did at first try to negotiate and the first treaty between Carthage and Rome, signed in 509 B.C., bears witness to Carthage's power.

> There will be friendship between the Romans and their allies and the Carthaginians and their allies on these conditions: neither the Romans nor their allies shall sail past the point called Bello unless forced to do so by bad weather or enemy pursuit. Whoever is forced to do so shall make no purchases in the market, nor under any circumstances take anything that is not absolutely essential for refitting their ship or for performing the sacrifices, and they shall stay no longer than five days. If a Roman should come to the parts of Sicily possessed by the Carthaginians, he will enjoy equal rights with them. The Carthaginians, in their turn, shall do no harm to the peoples of Ardea, Anzio, Laurento, Circeo, Terracina, or any other of the Latin cities subject to Rome; they must abstain from aggression against the Latin cities subject to the Romans, and whatever they take from any of them must be restored intact to the Romans. They must not build any fortified places in Latin territory. Whoever sets foot in the country armed for war shall not pass the night.

This treaty basically marked out the spheres of influence of two peoples, who as yet were not in conflict because their areas of influence did not overlap. Rome was a continental European power, Carthage a seafaring, African one. But after Rome's conquest of Greece and its attempt to annex Sicily, the first of the three major confrontations between the two powers broke out: the famous "Punic Wars."

In the first war, which lasted from 264-241 B.C., Carthage lost Sicily and paid heavy reparations to Rome. And Hamilcar Barca, the general who had fought the Romans and lost, had to seek refuge in Spain.

In Spain, however, Hamilcar raised a large and well-disciplined army and placed at its head his son Hannibal. Raised to hate Rome, and groomed to take revenge for the humiliation imposed on Carthage, Hannibal, when he succeeded his father in 221 B.C., soon attacked Roman territory – to open the Second Punic War.

Never had Rome been in such danger – as Hannibal marched on Rome, crossing the Pyrenees and the Alps with troops and war elephants. Even before he encountered any Roman troops, Hannibal lost half his men, but still defeated a Roman army at Lake Trasimeno, not far from Rome, and the capital was only saved because Hannibal lacked siege engines.

At Cannae, Hannibal won yet again, but that was the peak; his troops exhausted, he retired to Capua to wait for reinforcements.

He waited in vain. The Carthaginian Senate, jealous and fearful of his power, refused to send aid.

Meanwhile, the Roman general Scipio, taking advantage of Hannibal's absence, attacked Carthage. Carthage, in desperation, putting aside its jealousies, summoned Hannibal to its aid. But, it was too late. When Hannibal finally faced Scipio in 202 B.C. at Zama, his exhausted troops were no match for the Romans and again humiliating terms and heavy reparations were forced on Carthage. They were forced to destroy their fleet and disband their army and Hannibal had to seek refuge in Syria – where, in 183 B.C. he committed suicide.

The Third Punic War (149-146 B.C.) was a cynical expression of Rome's growing power. Cato's repeated cry in the Roman senate, *"Delenda est Carthago"* – Carthage must be destroyed – was motivated solely by the fact that despite the heavy financial burden placed on Carthage by the Romans, the city was once again beginning to prosper. When Carthage had the temerity to defend herself from an attack by Rome's ally Masinissa, Rome invaded Africa.

At first, Carthage surrendered unconditionally. But when the Romans demanded that the Carthaginians destroy their own city and that the 700,000 inhabitants settle elsewhere, Carthage decided to fight, and though hopelessly outnumbered tried every means in their power to defend themselves. They built a clandestine fleet from the roof-beams of their houses – the rigging, said to be made from the hair of their women. The Romans also tried to starve the city into submission but Carthage held out.

Scipio finally did force the walls, but still took six days to reach the citadel, the Carthaginians defending every inch of their beloved city. On the seventh day Scipio reached the Byrsa – marked out by Elissa's bull's hide so many years before – and in the temple of Eshmoun, on the summit of the Acropolis, faced 1,000 men led by the general Hasdrubal. Because they were dying of hunger, Hasdrubal, unable to bear the sight of the suffering of his wife and children, sought terms from the Romans. But his wife took her children and mounted a terrace of the temple and called out to Scipio: "O Roman, I beg you and the gods of Carthage to punish Hasdrubal as he deserves, for he has betrayed his city, his gods, his wife and his children." So saying, she threw herself and her children into the flames of the sacrificial fire, and according to the story, the 1,000 remaining warriors followed suit, choosing death rather than surrender.

Though Carthage was razed by the Romans, a Roman Carthage subsequently rose on the ruins of the city founded by Elissa, and North Africa became a prosperous Roman colony, Punic speech lingering on in the countryside until about the fourth century. Rome's power also waned, however, and Carthage eventually fell to the Byzantines and then, in 690, to the Arabs, under whom it eventually became the quiet – and peaceful – suburb seen today.

Paul Lunde is a contributing editor of Aramco World *magazine.*

GARLANDS FROM THE EAST

PAINTED BY KATHLEEN CRAWFORD

In what botanists call the Saharo-Sindian floristic regions – a belt of desert running from North Africa to Pakistan and including the Arabian Peninsula – flowers are rare. There are some flowers, however, since, with just a touch of rain, plants in many of the deserts instantly bloom, and in other floristic regions – Jordan, Lebanon and Syria – thousands of species flourish. In the spring, in fact, wild flowers carpet the coastal plains and the foothills of Lebanon and Syria with layer upon layer of vivid color. (See **Aramco World**, January-February 1968, September-October 1974).

As they did with astronomy and mathematics during the Golden Age, the Muslim world, centuries later, introduced many of those flowers to Europe. In the 16th century, to give one very good example, an Austrian diplomat at the court of the Ottoman Empire noticed the beauty of the tulip and introduced it in Germany and, of course, The Netherlands – a development hinted at in one of the paintings reproduced here.

To Kathleen Crawford, a 74-year-old great-grandmother in Los Osos, California, who has been painting flowers since she was a child, all flowers are beautiful. But those from the East have a particular fascination for her; though her travels in the Arab world took her no farther than Cairo – "which I hate to admit," she says – she has done considerable research in botanical gardens as well as libraries, and has always found the flowers from the East to be particularly attractive.

To Mrs. Crawford – who studied painting at the Chouinard Institute of the Arts in Los Angeles ("They've changed the name to the Art School now") – her paintings of flowers are not just paintings. She calls them "portraits" because, she says, she paints them from living models, some of them grown in her own garden.

But whether portraits or renderings, Mrs. Crawford's work is accurate as well as beautiful – so accurate that the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, and horticultural journals in Massachusetts, California and elsewhere have taken samples, and so beautiful that several art collectors have purchased some to put on display. In addition, her work hangs in the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles and Santa Barbara.

These few examples of Mrs. Crawford's "portraits" are but a minute part of her work; she says she has turned out about 300 paintings in recent years and has about 100 on hand right now. But they suggest, nonetheless, the detail she insists upon and the beauty of the garlands that have come to the West from the East over the centuries.

– The Editors

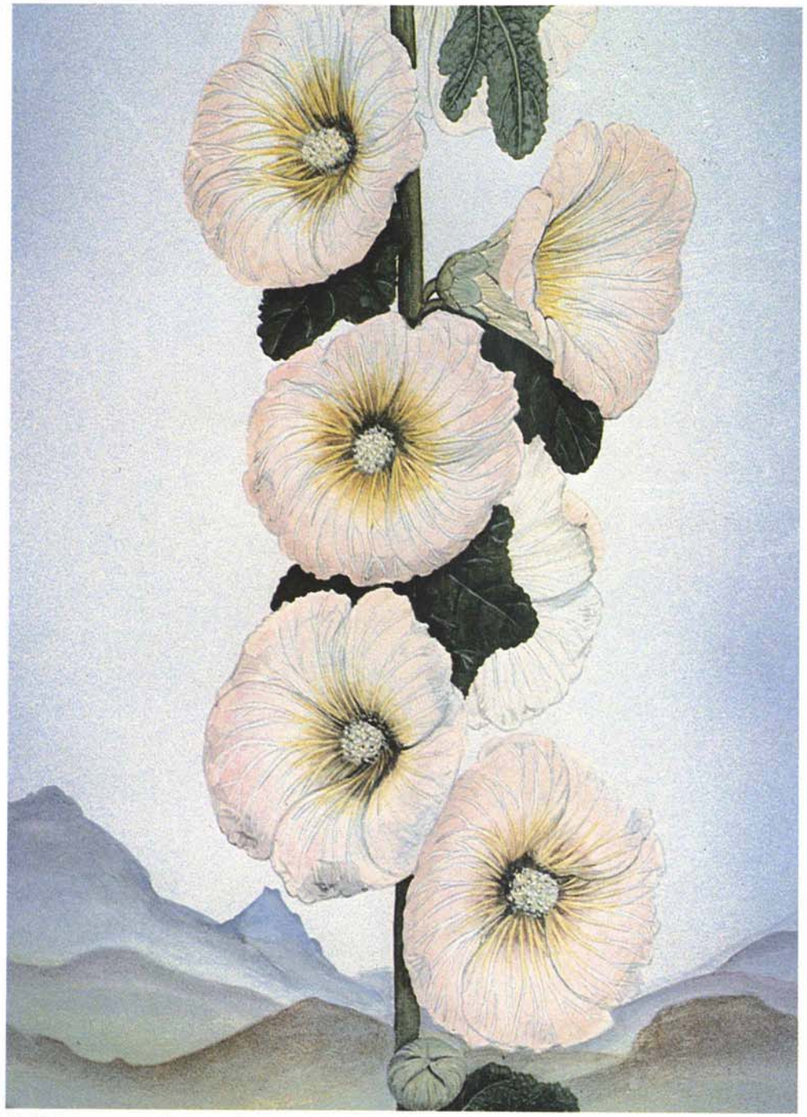
◁ Hypericum calycinum: Native to the Arab East, Hypericum spread westward from Istanbul in 1675 and today is a standard garden flower in Western Europe and North America, where it is sometimes called Aaron's Beard, or St. John's Wort. The Reverend Sir George Wheeler sent seeds from the city then known as Constantinople – today's Istanbul – to Oxford University in England, and its beautiful yellow flowers subsequently won the affection of gardeners the world over.

△ **Cynara scolymus:** Like the coffee plant, the **Cynara** yields food as well as beauty. This thistle-like plant is the artichoke, and it grows wild in 14 species, from Kurdistan to the Canary Islands. The edible parts are at the bases of the floral bracts, and the famous "heart" of the plant. Once they've blossomed, the seed-heads fade and dry, and are used in flower arrangements.

▷ **Ornithogalum arabicum:** Native to the eastern Mediterranean area, this lovely member of the Liliaceae family, which Mrs. Crawford likes to call "the Star of Arabia," was introduced to gardens in many lands, becoming particularly successful in places with similar climates, such as California. Every spring, wild or cultivated, these flowers are very charming and unusual with their white petals and gleaming white pistils.

◁ **Punica granatum:** Called **Rumman** in Arabic, the pomegranate was known to the Babylonians as **Rammam**, after their god of storm and thunder. Legend says the pomegranate always harbors one seed which has come from paradise. The plant, however, has many more earthly applications: the rind is used for tanning in Morocco, and for ink in other parts of the Arab world. And of course, as a fruit it is deemed a great delicacy.

△ **Coffea arabica:** Arab traders brought this plant from the Ethiopian province of Kaffa where it served not only as the basis of the beverage now known throughout the world, but also as a food for warriors setting out for battle. The plant took well to its new home, particularly in the mountains of Yemen, and by about A.D. 1600 the port of Mocha was already so famous as a coffee-exporting city that its name had become virtually synonymous with the drink.



△ **Althaea rosea**: About 100,000 years ago, a Neanderthal people dwelling in a cave named Shanidar in the Zagros Mountains in Iran buried their dead with these flowers, known to us now as the hollyhock. It also served them as a medicine, and according to anthropologist Ralph Solecki, is still used today as "the poor man's aspirin."

▷ **Tulipa clusiana**: another striking tulip, was named for Clusius, a 16th-century herbalist who made one of the first representations of tulips seen in Western Europe: a woodcut published in 1576. One of the early tulip enthusiasts, Clusius helped propagate these flowers on rather a large scale. Little **Tulipa clusiana** has resisted change in cultivation, as in the wild and is one of the most clearly marked of all tulips: bright white with dark purple-black centers and bright candy-stripe pink on sepal reverses.